

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 460  
By Kurita

A RESOLUTION to recognize Lieutenant Geno Grubbs on the occasion of his retirement from the Clarksville Police Department.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Geno Grubbs is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for twenty-eight years with the Clarksville Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Geno Grubbs will be taking a much deserved retirement and will be sorely missed by his colleagues and superiors and by the citizens of Clarksville; and

WHEREAS, as the Clarksville Police Department's first Public Information Officer (PIO), Lt. Grubbs has spent the last seven years holding press conferences, writing news releases, and responding to inquiries from print and broadcast media outlets, all while maintaining the professional integrity of police investigations; and

WHEREAS, as a PIO, Lt. Grubbs has spoken on behalf of police officers, detectives, and administrators, expertly passing along information important to the safety of the Clarksville community; and

WHEREAS, his law enforcement career began as a campus police officer at Austin Peay State University, from which he graduated in 1976 with a degree in History; after his college graduation, he received certification at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Geno Grubbs was hired by the Clarksville Police Department; he worked for seven years as a Patrol Officer; and

WHEREAS, with his promotion to Corporal in 1984, Geno Grubbs was moved into the department's training division, a natural fit for the man who had originally planned to become a high school teacher and football coach; and

WHEREAS, during his time as a Training Officer, Lt. Grubbs and Lt. Mark Smith started the Clarksville Police Department's Citizens Police Academy in 1994; this Academy was a thirteen week, hands-on journey into the everyday life and experiences of a police officer offered to civilians in an effort to build the relationship between the police force and the community; and

WHEREAS, since its outset, the Citizens Police Academy has offered twenty-one classes and graduated an impressive 750 citizens; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Lt. Grubbs, who had served in the rank of Sergeant for ten years, pitched the idea of a public information office to Chief Johnny Rosson, reasoning that the department had grown large enough to necessitate an officer designated to field media inquiries; and

WHEREAS, agreeing with Lt. Grubbs' idea, Chief Rosson designated him the new PIO and Lt. Grubbs accepted this new role with enthusiasm; he attended a PIO training course and developed a rapport with local and regional media outlets, including *The Leaf-Chronicle*, WJZM 1400-AM radio station, Hopkinsville TV-43, and the three major local Nashville stations; and

WHEREAS, in the years since he became Clarksville's PIO, Lt. Grubbs' media dealings have expanded to print and broadcast outlets across the county, and even the globe; the British Broadcasting Network filmed briefly in Clarksville after the 1999 tornado; and

WHEREAS, his desire to establish lines of communication between police and the citizenry led Lt. Grubbs to host a weekly radio show "Behind the Badge" on WJZM, giving the public a chance to call in and discuss crime and safety-related concerns; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Geno Grubbs was promoted to the prestigious rank of Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Grubbs is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Geno Grubbs exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Lieutenant Geno Grubbs has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we thank Lieutenant Geno Grubbs for his brave, commendable, and dedicated service to the citizens of Tennessee through his work with the Clarksville Police Department and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.